

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Port Entrance Formalities - Sulina

1. A pilot and a Rumanian soldier boarded the ship outside the Sulina mouth of the Danube, a location indicated by a buoy with a flashing red light. By moonlight, the ship steered through a passage of stakes leaving the flashing buoy to starboard. The stakes, indicating sandbars to port and starboard, marked the channel into the Sulina mouth.
2. At Sulina, the pilot directed the ship to moor alongside the barges at the pier. The pilot spoke in French and, in order to avoid the suggestion of secrecy, gave the necessary explanations to the soldier also.
3. The ship moored as did the military motorboat which had followed the ship from the mouth of the river. A man wearing a naval cap on which there was the badge of the shipping agency came to the ship and said in French, "I am the ROMTRA agent. You will not sail at night. Tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. after going through customs inspection you will sail with the pilot, who will serve as your guide." He departed with the customs official, but the armed guard at the wharf continued watching the ship.

The Danube - Sulina to Braila

4. The following morning after the completion of customs formalities, the ship departed Sulina at 0930 hours under the guidance of a pilot. Although making 10 knots, the ship was followed to Tulcea by a patrol motorboat. The ship was not followed between Tulcea and Braila.
5. After passing Reni, the ship was disturbed for a long time by flashes of a thousand candlelight power from a signal station to starboard. The signal flashes were discontinued after the ship blew its whistle frequently as an indication that the flashes were endangering its safety in sailing.
6. The ship anchored in the port of Braila at 2030 hours. The pilot spent

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the night on board.

7. From Sulina to Braila, a distance of about 80 miles, the Danube is 23 to 23½ feet deep. The river becomes more shallow above Braila, but it is still navigable by river vessels for 1,000 miles farther.
8. Along the Danube there are about 1,000 Rumanian, Soviet, Czech, Bulgarian and French lighters of various types and varying in size from 200 to 1,200 tons; about 100 big boats of various sizes; river motor boats flying Rumanian and Soviet flags and engaged in regular passenger service; old paddle steamboats; large sea-going tugs flying Soviet flags and towing 1,000 ton lighters loaded with cereals or petroleum products; and other tugboats.

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Security and Control Measures - Braila

9. The following morning the ship was boarded by the customs and military control delegation. They assembled the officers and crew and checked each one with his identification card, a Soviet practice common in other ports. The delegation, accompanied by a man from the ship, searched all the places which the ship had been ordered to leave open. During this inspection, only the Captain was permitted to stay in his room.
10. The control lasted for two hours. During this time armed guards watched from both banks of the place where the ship was anchored. After the control was over the crew's money was returned. Cameras and the Captain's revolver, which had been sealed at Sulina, were returned sealed with a warning against their use.
11. The Captain and First Officer were told that they might leave the ship at any time with the condition that they must report to the police and to the customs officials. The others were permitted to leave the ship after 1700 hours. A list of names must be submitted in advance and they must return to the ship and pick up their identification cards by 2400 hours. Armed guards watched the ship continuously.

Civil Affairs - Economic Conditions

12. [redacted] the people and conditions in Braila

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- a. To talk with or give information to foreigners is absolutely forbidden.

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[redacted] It was said that of a population of 15,000,000, 500,000 Rumanians had joined the Communist Party in order to raise their standard of living. It was also said that there was a total of about 2,000,000 Rumanian and Soviet troops in the country. The proper dress of the Soviet officers' families was immediately noticeable.

- b. The people know how to dress neatly and properly, but they have an air of depression. Clothing is very expensive. Nylon stockings imported from Russia sold for 150 lei per pair, but most of the women wore socks or stockings which they knitted themselves.
- c. One lei is worth 45 kurus; six lei is the equivalent of one dollar. The average daily wage of a worker is 10 lei. The monthly income of a first rate ship pilot is 1,200 lei; that of an agricultural engineer

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is 1,600 lei. A kilo of bread costs five lei, a kilo of poor quality grapes costs six lei, and a kilo of coffee costs 150 lei.

- d. The Rumanian peasant is living on corn flour. He retains five per cent of his corn harvest and 95 per cent is taken by the government at one lei per kilo. He must purchase additional corn to meet his requirements at five lei per kilo. The Rumanian who told [] of the corn situation added the following: "Let us assume I have a sheep. The government demands three to five kilos of wool from the sheep even though the sheep, being small, produces on 1.3 kilos of wool. I am obliged to procure 2.2 kilos of wool from the black market and give it to the government." When asked why he didn't slaughter the sheep, he complained, "Is that possible? If it dies without my taking it to a veterinarian I am made to pay 500 lei and am given another sheep."

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Reni

13. Reni, located at the juncture of two rail lines, is typical of the Soviet. It had a pier for loading ores, a large grain elevator, and six cranes. About 60 meters from the bank there are large petroleum tanks. Large grain elevators can be seen about three kilometers inland.
14. Five hundred ton lighters were seen being loaded at Reni with ore, cereals, and petroleum. Rumanian ores exploited by the Soviets are stored at Reni for later transportation elsewhere in the USSR.
15. About $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Reni and 10 miles east of Galati there is a Soviet Naval Instruction Center on the river bank. There were four Soviet tugboats alongside the center's pier. On a terrace about 20 meters higher than the river bank, coast defense guns are installed. Between the center and Galati, two 12 to 15 inch long-range and two 7.5 mm. short-range coast defense guns and a searchlight were installed. Between the center and Galati, two 12 to 15 inch long-range and two 7.5 mm. short-range coast defense guns and a searchlight were installed.

Galati

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16. On the eastern wharf in Galati there was a large crane and timber. At about one-half mile distance, heaps of iron ore could be seen. The ore comes from a mine which has rail connections with Galati. [] the ore is transported to the USSR, but [] the percentage of iron in the ore is very small.
17. About 400 meters west of the timber loading location, there was a dockyard in which three large sea-going tugs were under construction. In the easternmost dock, the sheet iron hull of a freighter of about 2,000 tons was launched.
18. In the western section of Galati there were marine railways and repair facilities for river boats.

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